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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,093	10/21/2005	Isao Sasaki	SON-3006	1336
23353 7590 08/31/2009 RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC LION BUILDING 1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER				
VU, THANH T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2175				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/31/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/554,093

Applicant(s)

SASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

THANH T. VU

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/10/2007; 10/21/2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cazier et al. ("Cazier", US 2005/0206746) and Park (US 6,263,217).

Per claim 1, Cazier teaches an imaging apparatus having:

GUI screen image generating means for generating a GUI screen image having graphical user interface means for operating the apparatus and displaying the GUI screen image on image display means (fig. 3; [0015]);

operating means for operating the GUI screen image displayed on said image display means (fig. 1; [0015]); and

controlling means for controlling the apparatus in accordance with the operation of the GUI screen image by said operating means, characterized by having (figs. 1 and 3):

storing means having stored therein main menu information which is capable of setting and operating desired functions by classifying functions settable and operable in said imaging apparatus on the basis of a predetermined category, displaying index information of the classified

functions in stages, and selecting the displayed index information (figs. 1 and 3; ([0016]; [0021]));

menu generating means capable of selecting desired index information among the main menu information in said storing means to generate unique menu information ([0021]; [0022]); and

menu editing means capable of editing the unique menu information generated by said menu generating means, and characterized in that ([0022]; [0025]));

said controlling means controls said GUI screen image generating means on detection of a predetermined operation by said operating means ([0022]), and

said GUI screen image generating means generates the GUI screen image including the index information for operating the menu editing means in said unique menu information, in accordance with the control by said controlling means, to display the GUI screen image on said image display means (fig. 3; [0022]).

Cazier does not specifically teach the main menu is a hierarchy type menu. However, Park teaches a hierarchical type menu and rebuilding of the hierarchical menu based on frequency of use (figs. 3; col. 3, lines 49-67). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the teaching of Park in the invention of Cazier in order to provide the user with a hierarchical menu for arranging menu items in parent child menus.

Per claim 2, the modified Cazier teaches the imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that: said menu editing means has a function of adding the index information to said unique menu information, a function of deleting the index information, a function of rearranging a displayed position of the index information, and a function of initializing the unique menu information to predetermined menu information (Cazier, [0021]; [0022]; [0030]; [0034]).

Per claim 3, the modified Cazier teaches the imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that: said GUI screen image generating means generates a GUI screen image including the index information for operating said main menu information in said unique menu information to display the GUI screen image on said image display means (Cazier, [0021]; [0022]; [0030]; [0034]).

Per claim 4, the modified Cazier teaches the imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that: said GUI screen image generating means has a function of adding the unique menu information generated by said menu generating means to the index information of said main menu information (Cazier, [0021]; [0022]; [0030]; [0034]).

Per claim 5, the modified Cazier teaches the imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that: said GUI screen image generating means has a function of adding the unique menu information generated by said menu generating means to the index information displayed at an arbitrary hierarchy of said main menu information (Park, col. 3, lines 49-67; Cazier, [0021]; [0022]; [0030]; [0034]).

Claim 6 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 1.

Per claim 7, the modified Cazier teaches the imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that: said GUI screen image for displaying the setting item corresponding to said index information has a function of scroll-displaying the setting items in accordance with a layout of said list information (Cazier, [0016]; [0019]).

Per claim 8, the modified Cazier teaches the imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that: said GUI screen image for displaying the setting item corresponding to said index information carries out a graphic display indicative of its boundary in a case where a setting item of adjacent index information in said main menu is displayed (Cazier, fig. 3; [0021]; [0030]-[0033]).

Per claim 9, the modified, Cazier teaches the imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that: said GUI screen image for displaying the setting item corresponding to said index information displays graphic information indicating the index information from which a setting item is able to be selected in a case where setting items of adjacent index information in said main menu is displayed (Cazier, fig. 3; [0021]; [0030]-[0033]).

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THANH T. VU whose telephone number is (571)272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William L. Bashore can be reached on (571) 272-4088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thanh T. Vu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2175